OTONARI COMPLEX
Chapter 14: Their Feelings
NONOMURA SAKU
SCANLATION BY AMPLIFIED
AIJIISHIBASHI

SHOPPING?
BUT YOU JUST SHOPPED FOR A LOT OF CLOTHES.
14 THEIR FEELINGS

LET'S GO. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BUSY.
You're just reading a magazine.
Hmm

IN SHORT, I'M SHOPPING AS A GUY.
LOOK AT ME. I'M NOT CROSS-DRESSING TODAY.

I THOUGHT IT WAS THE CASE AFTER RECEIVING THAT MAIL YESTERDAY...
OKAY.
I'LL JUST CHANGE. WAIT FOR ME.

BUT
AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER, SHE'S BEEN BY MY SIDE.
"SHE'S BROODING OVER SOMETHING."
SHE REALLY IS ACTING STRANGE...
—What do I wear?
MAYBE BECAUSE SHE'S ALWAYS HAD A CAREFREE PERSONALITY,
AKIRA RARELY SHOWS IT IN HER ACTIONS WHEN SHE'S BROODING OVER SOMETHING.

I CAN TELL THAT MUCH.

HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHERE TO SHOP?
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ざわ
HM
THAT STORE OVER THERE.
Ah
I'LL FINISH QUICKLY, SO KILL SOME TIME AROUND HERE.
SALE
EXCUSE ME.
YES~
WELCOME. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN ITEM?
SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT.
ガサ
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WELCOME BACK.

I'M SHOPPING AS A GUY TODAY.
I TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
YOU WERE PRETTY QUICK. YOU'VE DECIDED ON WHAT TO BUY?
LET'S GRAB COFFEE AND DRINK SOMEWHERE.
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS.
OH, RIGHT. THE TREE EXHIBITION STARTS THIS WEEK.
WOW!

HEY
.....
OKAY.
LET'S SIT AND DRINK.
I'M NOT ANGRY OR ANYTHING.
SORRY
I WENT HOME FIRST YESTERDAY.
YOU DID THAT AFTER EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO, RIGHT?
THEN I'M IN NO POSITION TO SAY ANYTHING.
ERM
OH

Ahaha
THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T GET ANGRY OF.
I'M SAYING SORRY FOR GOING HOME FIRST WITHOUT TELLING YOU...
NO, IT'S ALSO ABOUT NISHIKUBO.

SHE'S FORCIBLY CHANGING THE TOPIC...
YOU SEE, I ALSO WANTED A NEW PAIR OF SHOES~

EH
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT KIND OF SHOES DID YOU BUY?

CAN I TAKE A LOOK?
HERE

WELL, IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT...
カサ…

WELL, ACTUALLY
カパ
THEY'RE YOURS.
H-HOW DID YOU...
!!?
がばっ
EH?!
……

THE SIZE...
THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PAIR OF THIS SIZE.
YEAH.
THE MAIN STORE DOESN'T DISTRIBUTE A PAIR OF THAT SIZE.

BUT THERE'S THIS CONCEPT CALLED "QUEEN-SIZE" IN THIS WORLD.
YOU CAN ORDER A PAIR FROM THE MAIN STORE.
Didn't you listen to the store attendant?
OH...
I THINK SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I was only half-listening.
It will take a bit of time, but it is possible to order a pair from the main store. How about it?
26cm...
ガーン

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WANTED THEM.
SO THEY'RE MY CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU.

I HAVE SAVINGS, YOU KNOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE A PART-TIME JOB, MAKOTO...
BUT...
...BUT...
ぎゅっ…
Sigh
YOU CAN RETURN THEM IF YOU DON'T NEED THEM...
I'M VERY HAPPY!!!
Thank you very much!!!!
NO, I NEED THEM!! I'M HAPPY!!

YOU AND I ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS
AND WE'VE GOT OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
...CAN I SAY SOMETHING REALLY STRANGE?

AND I'VE NEVER WORRIED ABOUT THAT. BUT...
EVEN IF YOU GET A GIRLFRIEND, I THOUGHT IT'S NOT LIKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL CHANGE

SHOPPING AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE SIDE BY SIDE,
THINGS THAT ARE NATURAL TO US LIKE ENTERING EACH OTHER'S ROOMS,

IF
YOUR GIRLFRIEND HATES IT,

……
——…
ぎゅっ
I PONDERED ABOUT IT FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT YESTERDAY.
WE MIGHT HAVE TO STOP DOING ALL OF THOSE.
AND EVEN EXCHANGING GIFTS LIKE THIS--
…AND I THOUGHT THAT'S SUCH A SAD THING
AND I DON'T WANT THAT.

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE BROODING ABOUT SINCE YESTERDAY!!
ST-STUPID ?!
Eh
LISTEN PROPERLY, OKAY?!
YOU STUPID ?!!
ARE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!!
I WOULD NEVER PICK A GIRL LIKE THAT, EVEN IF I DIE.

HUH? THAT'S SO ABRUPT.
Were you holding it in...?
GOOD
I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM FOR A BIT.
GOT IT...
SHE WASN'T PROBABLY LEAVING THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND FRAME
BUT EVEN SO
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
SHE SHOULDN'T BE THINKING ABOUT ME AT ALL.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, AKIRA SHOWED SOMETHING LIKE AN ATTACHMENT TO ME.

AH, THIS MUCH IS FINE FOR NOW.
IT'S ENOUGH.
FUMI-CHAN!!
.....
AKIRA-CHAN

I SAW YOU BUY COFFEE
AND RAN AFTER YOU BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
BUT
WHAT A COIN-CIDENCE! WHAT'S UP?!
...IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.
...I SAW YOU ACCEPT THAT FROM NINOMIYA-KUN.
OH
HMM...
SO HE WAS SHOWING OFF TO ME HOW GOOD YOUR RELATION-SHIP IS.
THE PERSON I LIKE
WOULD HAVE SAID, "NO MATTER WHAT YOU WEAR, YOU'RE STILL YOU, MAKOTO."
HUH...
AS I THOUGHT, THOSE PARTING WORDS...

BUT I WON'T.
IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANYWAY.
...FUMI-CHAN...?
YESTERDAY, I TOOK IT OUT ON YOU AND SAID SOMETHING MEAN
EVEN SO, CAN "CHILDHOOD FRIENDS" STILL GET ALONG WELL...
SO I CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT, AREN'T?
OF ALL PEOPLE, I ASKED *YOU* FOR HELP.
AND YOU EVEN SAID... YOU'LL HELP ME.

LET'S BE HONEST HERE. YOU'RE AWARE OF IT, AREN'T YOU?
THAT NINOMIYA-KUN LIKES YOU, AKIRA-CHAN.
TBC

OTONARI
COMPLEX

Best friend or more, friendzone.
Childhood friend Complex!